

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 161288  
ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 /021 R

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DRAFTED BY: EB/FTD: CANGEVINE\$KM

APPROVED BY: EF/FTD:CANGEVINE

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O 121335Z JUL 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT HONG KONG 08025 ACTION SECSTATE JUL 12.

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 8025

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, HK

SUBJECT: US-HONG KONG TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 159389

SUMMARY: THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT IS UNHAPPY WITH THE DRAFT TEXTILE AGREEMENT BUT WILL ACCEPT IT. RATIFICATION PROCEEDINGS HERE HAVE STOPPED, NOT BECAUSE OF UNWILLINGNESS TO SIGN AGREEMENT BUT BECAUSE OF REPORTS FROM ALEX HERMAN IN WASHINGTON THAT THE U.S. SIDE IS NOT READY TO SIGN, END SUMMARY.

1. WE DELIVERED THE MESSAGE CONTAINED REFTEL TO DORWARD ON JULY 11. ALTHOUGH HE APPRECIATED THE COURTESY OF A REPLY, HE WAS NOT IMPRESSED BY ITS SUBSTANCE. HIS RESPONSE TO THE FINAL SENTENCE THAT THE AGREEMENT IS FULLY CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE MFA WAS "HOW? ALL I CAN SEE BETWEEN THE LINES (OF THE MFA) ARE WHITE SPACES." HE  
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WENT ON TO SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO RENEGE ON THE AGREEMENT BUT FELT THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WAS SETTING A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT, WHICH IN EFFECT WOULD SAY TO THE EEC THAT IT WAS NOT NECESSARY TO CHANGE THE MFA BECAUSE ITS PROVISIONS NEED NOT BE HONORED.

2. DORWARD WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT WAS CONFUSED BY REPORTS FROM ALEX HERMAN THAT INTER-AGENCY NEGOTIATIONS IN WASHINGTON HAD NOT BEEN COMPLETED, THAT THERE MAY BE ADDITIONS OR CHANGES IN THE DRAFT TO COVER ITEMS WHICH WERE THOUGHT TO HAVE BEEN AGREED BUT WERE NOT, AND THAT STATE DEPARTMENT LAWYERS WANT TO MAKE "SUBSTANTIAL REVISIONS" IN THE DRAFT TEXT. THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT HAS INSTRUCTED PETER TSAO IN GENEVA TO REFER ANY PROPOSED CHANGES OR REVISIONS TO HONG KONG. MEANWHILE, DORWARD HAS STOPPED THE RATIFICATION PROCESS ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT SEEMS POINTLESS TO CLEAR THE DRAFT AGREEMENT WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND THE INDUSTRY AND THEN TO HAVE TO GO BACK WITH REVISED LANGUAGE.

2. DORWARD WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF THE STATUS OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE U.S. SIDE AND CONFIRMATION OF HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE HONG KONG GOVERNMENT SHOULD WAIT FOR PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TEXT BEFORE PROCEEDING WITH THE RATIFICATION PROCESS.  
CROSS. UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXTILES, AGREEMENT DRAFT, TREATY RATIFICATION, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE161288  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** EB/FTD: CANGEVINE  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 159389  
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**SAS ID:** 1887546  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US-HONG KONG TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** ETRD, HK  
**To:** GENEVA  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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